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**WEDNESDAY,**  
JANUARY 20, 2021

Tomorrow's weather

42 | 24



## Pulse of Wabash

### Seeking sports stringers

Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

### Notice to readers

To reduce risks to our employees and community, the Wabash Plain Dealer is closed to the public until further notice. Payments may be mailed to Wabash Plain Dealer, P.O. Box 309, Marion, IN 46952, or called in. For news, call 260-225-4662 or email [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com). For advertising, call 260-225-4947 or email [tcampbell@pmgimmi.com](mailto:tcampbell@pmgimmi.com). For circulation and customer support, call 260-563-2131. The Wabash Plain Dealer is committed to providing the best product to its customers and appreciates the support during this time. For more local news content, please visit [wabashplaindealer.com](http://wabashplaindealer.com) where you will find all of the news that could not fit into today's edition. Get your news faster by activating your online account which is included in your print subscription rates. Our stories appear online in an easy-to-read format as they are completed. Thank you for your support through this pandemic.

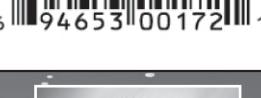
### Wabash COVID-19 vaccine clinic open for scheduling

The Wabash vaccine clinic is now taking appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations at the Wabash County Museum, 36 E. Market St. Times are available from 1 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 21; Saturday, Jan. 23; Wednesday, Jan. 28; Thursday, Jan. 29; and Saturday, Jan. 30. Those age 70 and older, along with healthcare workers, long-term care

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Erica Markiewicz  
Registered Representative

## 92 County Art Show goes on



Photo by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

Cammy Leffert drops three of her sculptures off on Monday, Jan. 4 at the Honeywell Center.

Annual exhibit available through Monday, Feb. 15 at Honeywell's Clark Gallery

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Monday, Jan. 4, Cammy Leffert was dropping off three sculptures at the Honeywell Center.

Leffert said one took four hours, the second took 15 hours and third took 12 hours to create.

"I make a wire form because that way I can bend the fingers, too," she said pointing to a wooden radio with a hand holding a cassette tape sticking out of the front. "I cover it with clay and then I bend them for the way they need to be for whatever they're holding or doing."

Leffert said she painted, too, but not as much lately.

"I used to sell a lot of my

paintings. But, since I started sculpting I've kind of got away from my painting. Any art stuff I love to do," said Leffert.

Leffert was one of the many artists who submitting their pieces that day to the Honeywell Arts & Entertainment, which is hosting its annual 92 County Art Show in the Honeywell Center Clark Gallery through Monday, Feb. 15.

Clark Gallery coordinator Michele Hughes said the annual exhibit is open to all 92 counties in Indiana. Three different sections are available including painting, drawing and other art forms.

"We have people from all over the state come in and submit artwork," said Hughes.

Hughes said the only differ-

ence this year was the lack of a reception at the end of the exhibit.

"It's pretty much running like it has in the past. We're all wearing masks, of course, but we've been lucky that we've been able to facilitate the exhibits the same way we have in the past," said Hughes.

Hughes said they had quite a few large pieces submitted this year.

"I was kind of joking and saying, 'You guys are stuck at home. You need more cans,'" said Hughes.

In all, this year's exhibit features artwork from 36 Hoosier artists "providing a variety of paintings, drawings, and other art forms," according to Honeywell Arts & Entertainment.

public relations and market-

ing coordinator Morgan Ellis. This exhibit is sponsored by the Eclectic Shoppe.

A total of 60 pieces were placed on display out of the 135 entries submitted by 52 Hoosier artists for this competition. Judging this year's exhibition was Huntington University Department of Art & Design Chair and Associate Professor of Art Barb Michel, of North Manchester.

Michel has taught art for more than 25 years, 15 of which were at Huntington University where she teaches courses in drawing, painting, illustration, art history, photography, design and art education. She earned bachelor's degrees in Fine Art and Art

See ART SHOW, page A2

See ACCIDENT, page A2

## Man dies following officer-involved shooting

By TIM TEDESCHI

[news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com)

Indiana State Police (ISP) is investigating the death of a Marion man following a Grant County Sheriff's Department (GCSD) officer-involved shooting Sunday.

According to ISP Sgt. Tony Slocum, GCSD officers were dispatched to a report of a domestic situation and possible stabbing in the 3200 block of South

See SHOOTING, page A3

## Manchester University waives enrollment deposit for fall 2021

Tuition is frozen for the 2021-22 academic year

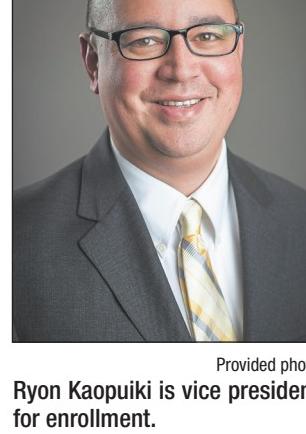
By ANNE GREGORY

Manchester University is waiving the enrollment deposit for incoming undergraduate students this fall.

"We understand that students and families are continuing to experience a lot of disruption and uncertainty," said Ryon Kaopuiki, vice president for enrollment. "We waived the deposit last year, and we heard from many students that waiving the deposit helped their families."

We want to make sure the high school class of 2021 has that same opportunity."

"If you already deposited, that \$250 will be a credit on your fall bill," said Melissa West, associate director for recruitment. "If you haven't yet made a deposit, you must



Provided photo

Ryon Kaopuiki is vice president for enrollment.

complete the Intent to Enroll form as soon as you are ready to commit to Manchester."

The form can be found at [www.manchester.edu/admissions/audiences/admissions/commit](http://www.manchester.edu/admissions/audiences/admissions/commit).

This is part of Manchester's three-pronged approach to

See DEPOSIT, page A2

## MLK speaker focuses on the Black experience, organizing at Manchester

Alumnus Glynn Hines kicks off 50th anniversary celebration of AAFRO House

By ANNE GREGORY

A Fort Wayne council member with a passion for social justice is the keynote speaker at the 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance and Rededication Ceremony at Manchester University.

The ceremony marks 53 years since King delivered his address "The Future of Integration" at the North Manchester campus. It was his last speech at a campus before King was slain in 1968.

Glynn Hines will speak about his experiences of racial tension as a Black student in the 1960s and '70s, and how efforts that led to establishing an AAFRO House changed his experience at



Provided photo

Glynn Hines will speak about his experiences of racial tension as a Black student in the 1960s and '70s

Manchester.

His title, "Rightful Objectives: 50 Years of Black Student Organizing at Manchester," echoes the AAFRO acronym for which the house was named, Afro-Americans Forming Rightful Objectives.

The University plans an interactive Zoom event for students at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4 that will be live-streamed on the University's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/ManchesterUniv](http://www.facebook.com/ManchesterUniv).

AAFRO House moved several times over the years, and today the Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center at College Avenue and East Street fills that role.

The center is a home-away-from-home for many students and serves as a hub for multicultural clubs and programming, including the Black Student Union and African Students Association. The center includes the Toyota Round, a multipurpose space that has become a focal point for discussions and programs.

"Manchester is deeply

See SPEAKER, page A3



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Erica Markiewicz  
Registered Representative

# FIRST BABY BORN IN WABASH COUNTY 2021



Provided photo

The first baby born in Wabash County in 2021 was a boy, according to Parkview Wabash media and community relations specialist Leslie Megison. Cole Bekham was born at 9:56 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 7 pounds, 13 ounces.

**DEPOSIT**

From page A1

make an excellent college education affordable:

The Indiana Tuition Bridge allows qualifying 2021 high school graduates from Indiana to attend Manchester without out-of-pocket tuition costs for

up to four years.

Tuition is frozen for the 2021-22 academic year.

The MU Triple Guarantee guarantees that 100 percent of MU undergrads will receive financial aid, graduation in four years or less, and a job or enrollment in graduate school within six months of graduation.

Manchester also added full-

ride academic scholarships for multicultural and honors students.

Those with questions about admissions can contact the admissions office at [admitinfo@manchester.edu](mailto:admitinfo@manchester.edu).

*Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.*

## PLAY TRIVIA AND WIN!

WE ARE GIVING AWAY \$1,000 in our new Publication TRIVIA Game

Trivia begins on January 13, 2021 and concludes on February 20, 2021. Look for the Trivia question on page A2 of the Wabash Plain Dealer every Wednesday and Saturday and fill in the correct answer on the entry form.

Mail your entry forms each week, or save them up and mail them all at one time, to be included in the drawing. Your envelope must be post marked by February 18 to be accepted. Drawing occurs on February 23, 2021.

**First Prize \$500 Second Prize \$250 Third Prize \$150 Fourth Prize \$50 Fifth Prize \$50**

1. Fissures, vents, and plugs are all associated with which geological feature?

**Answer**

### ENTRY FORM

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL YOUR FORM TO: Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992



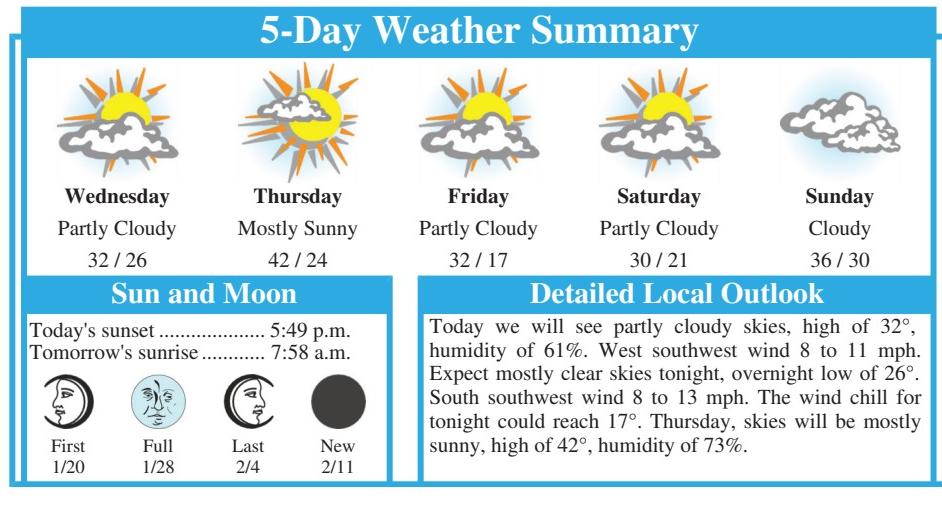
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## Indiana COVID-19 cases continue decline

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana health officials reported fewer new coronavirus cases and related hospitalizations Tuesday as the state's downward trend that began late last year continued into 2021.

Indiana recorded 2,756 new cases of COVID-19, the second straight day

health officials have reported fewer than 3,000 cases, the Indiana State Department of Health said Tuesday in its daily statistics update. That brings the number of Hoosiers known to have had the coronavirus to 595,436.

The state agency also reported that 2,332 Indiana

residents were hospitalized with COVID-19 on Monday — the fewest since early November, after the state saw a steep increase beginning in September for coronavirus deaths, hospitalizations and new infections. Of those being treated, 525 were in intensive care, marking a nine-week low.

## ART SHOW

From page A1

Education from Purdue University, her master's degree from IUPUI, and her doctorate from Capella University. Michel has won numerous awards and has presented at state and national conferences. She also exhibits her creative work regionally and has completed several commissions. Michel has also juried several art exhibitions in the Tri-State area and serves on several area creative committees.

Winners chosen included:

### Best of Show

■ Terri Buchholz, "December in the City"

### Sponsor's Choice

■ Mark Ober, "Family of Art"

### Painting

■ First Place: Brenda Stichter, "Every Good Gift"

■ Second Place: Kim Linker, "Snowmobile Trail"  
■ Third Place: Bonnie Jarboe, "Innocence"

### Drawing

■ First Place: Jerry Ginter, "Another Long Day"

■ Second Place: Jerry Ginter, "Lane 2 at the Drive-Thru"

■ Third Place: Susan Wenger, "At Rest"

### Other Art Forms

■ First Place: Mark Ober, "Mood of the Inner Man"

■ Second Place: Diana Fair, "Calla Lilies"

■ Third Place: Elizabeth Wamsley, "Woodland"

### Honorable Mentions

■ Bonnie Jarboe, "Cow"

■ Dani Keifer, "Seeing Self"

■ Diane Lehman, "Night Moves"

■ Mark Ober, "Easterday"

■ Mark Ober, "Family of Art"

■ Karen Rowland, "Air

ship"

Artwork may be purchased at the Box Office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. A 7 percent sales tax will be added to the bill. The Honeywell Center accepts several methods of payment, including check, cash or charge. Checks should be made payable to the Honeywell Center. Artwork may not be removed from the gallery before the completion of the exhibit.

The exhibit will be available for public viewing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and will be hosted virtually via HoneywellArts.org and the Honeywell Center's Facebook and Instagram pages.

For more information, visit <http://honeywellarts.org/exhibits> or call 260-563-1102.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

## SPEAKER

From page A1

rooted in the peace and justice tradition," said President Dave McFadden. "In addition to peace studies, which teaches students the roots of conflict and the ways of conflict resolution, we recently added poverty studies to our curriculum. It is one more way that we encourage students to live with compassion and to understand the struggles of others more deeply."

Hines is an at-large member of Fort Wayne City Council. As a council member, he focuses on neighborhood association empowerment, economic and business de-

velopment, housing revitalization and new housing developments, public safety initiatives and programs that give youth positive alternatives.

The 1973 Manchester graduate serves on the Citilink Public Transportation board, where he was instrumental in placing a "Rosa Parks" seat on every city bus. Hines also serves on the Fort Wayne Commission for the Social Status of African-American Males and the Fatherhood Back-to-School Initiative.

He retired from Brightpoint, where he taught high school students workforce readiness and college preparation skills. Formerly, Hines was an assistant vice president at

Bank One and a marketing manager at Xerox Corp.

Hines is a recipient of the Manchester Alumni Honor Award, the highest recognition the Alumni Association can bestow on a graduate.

The Manchester Peace Studies Institute and the Office of the President made the Feb. 4 program possible. It is part of the Values, Ideas and the Arts series at Manchester, which is designed to enhance the Manchester Core program in the liberal arts through cultural exposure, artistic experience and intellectual enrichment.

*Anne Gregory is the assistant director of media relations in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.*

## ACCIDENT

From page A1

The accident occurred at the intersection of Cherry Street and West Park Drive.

HPD officers immediately began rendering aid after arriving on scene within a minute of the initial call, which came in at 6:58 p.m. Huntington Fire Department and Parkview

Huntington Hospital personnel took over medical treatment.

Ultimately, life saving measures were unsuccessful, resulting in the coroner being called around 7:35 p.m., HPD Chief Chad Hacker wrote in the release.

HPD also received assistance from the Huntington County Sheriff's Department, Huntington County Prosecutor's office and

Huntington County Disaster Scene.

The family of the deceased were notified of the accident Friday night, according to an HPD Facebook post.

An obituary published by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service says Norris was a 1981 graduate of Wabash High School.

No further information was released regarding the incident.

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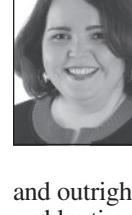
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# Obituaries

## The toll of violence

In preparation for Election Day, Manhattan businesses boarded up in case violence erupted if Donald Trump won reelection. They had seen or already experienced destruction during

**Kathryn Lopez**



the summer, when George Floyd's and other Black people's death at the hands – or knees – of police officers set off both legitimate protests

and outright violent riots and looting. Now that Washington, D.C., has become a militarized zone because of the violence that descended on the Capitol building itself – with both houses of Congress present – we know that violence is a bipartisan problem. It's a poison in our national bloodstream. And it's taken on a new, dangerous life.

There must be necessary consequences to all violent lawbreaking. Which is why we need to examine what all this violence says about who we have become as a people.

The Trump administration brought back federal executions, which a Biden administration will mercifully reverse. We should be haunted by some of the recent executions. Yes, the executed criminals were convicted of heinous murders. But in some cases, the executed people were mentally ill people who had never known anything but the violence of abuse, rape and abandonment. These aren't excuses, but they should be alarms to do better for our nation's children.

And while we're doing this examination of the heightened violent tendencies in our midst, the entertainment we consume matters. If it's all violence and death, that becomes a part of us. It doesn't cause someone to wake up one morning, get on a plane and storm the Capitol building or loot a Best Buy under the guise of protesting racial injustice, but it does desensitize us to just how evil it is to hurt, kill or dehumanize someone.

And we absolutely have to address abortion in a different way than we have

been doing. This is the most intimate violence there is. If women only knew how many opponents of abortion pray for those who have had abortions – and not in any kind of judgmental way. We know there's anguish. There is often so much fear and a loss of freedom. It's so often the opposite of what the rhetoric suggests.

If we are going to "heal" as a nation, as Joe Biden suggests he was elected to help us do, Biden must consider taking a new kind of position on abortion. Pope Francis himself has repeatedly said that abortion is not a religious issue, it's a human-rights issue. It's wrong because it takes a life and destroys the most natural bond there is – the one between mother and child. Abortion kills human life and it's killing us.

We are a nation that is finding it more and more difficult to come together for the common good. Our differences are making it harder to unite around anything.

So we board up windows and barricade government buildings for fear of what people might do, believing

the worst about institutions, leaders and our neighbors. When we pressure women to deny the humanity of the child in her womb, who and what can we trust?

There are so many elements to the problems ailing the hearts of our nation, but we'd be delusional to ignore the long-term consequences of abortion on our culture. When we throw away our most vulnerable, we'll seek to throw away elections, opponents and everyone we've come to perceive as an enemy in any way. Consider our rhetoric, consider our politics-as-pseudoreligion, consider our laws and protocols that say that those who are most vulnerable are less than human.

We don't have to be an angry, violent people. If we rid ourselves of unnecessary violence and death, we may be able to begin again to see what's worth preserving – the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution have some thoughts, for starters.

*Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.*

### Patricia Ann Mouser

Dec. 24, 1928 - Jan. 17, 2021



Patricia Ann Mouser, 92, of Wabash, Indiana, formerly of Roann, Indiana, died at 4:57 pm, Sunday, January 17, 2021 at Wellbrooke of Wabash. She was born December 24, 1928 in Miami County, Indiana, to Thomas Benton and Louise Bernice (Dunfee) Pence.

Pat was a 1946 graduate of Roann High School and attended the Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music in Indianapolis. She worked as an L.P.N. for Wabash

County Hospital for several years. Pat married Wilbur D.

Mouser in Roann on December 4, 1949; he died April 15, 2003. She was a member of Wabash First United Methodist Church, where she sang in the church choir.

Pat was also a former member of the Order of the Eastern Star, Happy Homemakers Home Ec Club, and the Wabash Garden Club. She spent time volunteering for Stockdale Mill and Helping Hands. Pat enjoyed singing, painting and gardening.

She is survived by three children, Janet (Don) Helton of Silver Lake, Indiana, Dennis Mouser of Lexington, South Carolina, and Ellen (Joseph) Hickey of Fort Mill, South Carolina, six grandchildren, Chris (Bobbie) Helton of Portage, Indiana, John (Missy) Helton of Silver Lake, Eric Mooney of Alexandria, Virginia, Alex Mooney of Merritt Island, Florida, Andrew (Terri)

Mouser of Parkland, Florida, and Carrie (Manny) Sciberras of Hamilton, Ohio, eight great grandchildren, Charlie, Oliver, Henry, Aaliyah, Aidan, Andrew, Gavyn, and Valerie. She was also preceded in death by her parents, and her brother, Larry Pence.

Funeral services will be 3:00 pm, Thursday, January 21, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor John Cook officiating. Burial will be in Roann Community Cemetery. Friends may call from 1:30-3:00 pm on Thursday, at the funeral home. Family requests masks be worn.

Preferred memorial is Stockdale Mill Association, c/o Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave. Wabash, IN 46992.

The memorial guest book for Pat may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

### Mary A. Norris

Mary A. Norris of Wabash, Indiana, passed away on January 13, 2021.

Burial will be private and take place at Falls Cemetery in Wabash.

Arrangements have been

### Mike Casper

Nov. 22, 1964 - Jan. 16, 2021

Mike Casper, 56, Rochester, died January 16, 2021. Mike was born November

22, 1964 in Wabash, to Lawrence "Larry" and Sharon (Cormany) Casper.

Mike is survived by his mother, Sharon Casper; wife, Kim Casper; son, Blake (Emily) Casper; daughter, Corinna (Tyler) Bruner; brothers, Mark (Sage) Casper, Gary (Yvonne) Casper and Adam

entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.medonaldfunerals.com

Arrangements have been

### Ruth Burkholder

Ruth Burkholder, 92, of Wabash, passed away on January 16, 2021 at Miller's Merry Manor East, in Wabash.

Ruth married Kenneth L. Burkholder; he passed away in 1975.

Ruth is survived by her sons Francis (Rita Leanne) Voland, Charles (Jody) Burkholder, and Robert (Sally) Burkholder; daughter, Linda (Paul) Sleighter; sister Dorothy McCormick.

Funeral services will be at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash.

Visitation will be two hours prior to the funeral service, starting at 12:00 p.m., at the funeral home.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.medonaldfunerals.com.

### Linda Purvis

Funeral services for Linda Purvis, are 11:00 am, Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Roann Chapel, Roann. Burial will be in Roann Community Cemetery. Friends may call 9:30-11:00 am Thursday, at the funeral home.

### Gene Arthur Hapner

Gene Arthur Hapner, 79, North Manchester, passed away January 12, 2021 at Parkview Regional Medical Center. The memory of Gene Arthur Hapner will be cherished by his daughters, Sandra Hapner, Fort Wayne, Linda King, North Manchester, Kathryn "Kathi" Wallace, Woodburn, Indiana; son-in-law, Brian Moore, Urbana, Indiana, four grandchildren,

Brittany (Chase) Miller, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Nicole (Daniel) Sanchez, Skylar Green, and Alexis King, all of North Manchester; four great-grandchildren, Abel Young, Corbin Miller, Mayson Sanchez, and Carson Miller. Services for Gene will be held at a later date.

The family of Gene Hapner has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

## Pence heading back to Indiana hometown after Biden inaugural

COLUMBUS (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence will be returning to his southern Indiana hometown Wednesday afternoon following the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

The Republican former Indiana governor and his wife Karen are expected to attend Biden's inauguration and will then fly into the Columbus

Municipal Airport, where they will be greeted by some supporters, the Indiana Republican Party said Tuesday.

That group of about 50 people is expected to include Pence's brother, U.S. Rep. Greg Pence, and some state lawmakers, said Barbara Hackman, the Bartholomew County Republican chairwoman.

## SHOOTING

From page A1

The race against the virus that causes COVID-19 has taken a new turn: Mutations are rapidly popping up, and the longer it takes to vaccinate people, the more likely it is that a variant that can elude current tests, treatments and vaccines could emerge.

The coronavirus is becoming more genetically diverse, and health officials say the high rate of new cases is the main reason. Each new infection gives the virus a chance to mutate as it makes copies of itself, threatening to undo the progress made so far to control the pandemic.

On Friday, the World Health Organization urged more effort to detect new

variants. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said a new version first identified in the United Kingdom may become dominant in the U.S. by March.

Although it doesn't cause more severe illness, it will lead to more hospitalizations and deaths just because it spreads much more easily, said the CDC, warning of "a new phase of exponential growth."

So far, vaccines seem to remain effective, but there are signs that some of the new mutations may undermine tests for the virus and reduce the effectiveness of antibody drugs as treatments.

"We're in a race against time" because the virus "may stumble upon a mutation" that makes it more dangerous

for treatment of injuries, Slocum said.

When Sneed arrived at the scene, he reportedly got out of his police vehicle and started walking up a long driveway that leads to the home. The initial investigation indicates that at some point Young allegedly drove a Honda Civic toward Sneed, "causing him to jump on the hood of the moving vehicle," police said.

While Sneed was on the hood, Young reportedly did not stop the car and continued to drive, according to police. Sneed then allegedly fired multiple rounds from

his issued Sig Sauer 9mm handgun through the car's windshield, and Young was reportedly hit by multiple bullets as the car came to a stop, Slocum said.

Officers began medical treatment on Young at the scene. He was then transported via ambulance to Marion General hospital. Slocum said Young died despite life-saving measures, and Slocum reported that an autopsy will be scheduled.

Sneed did not suffer any injuries in the incident, Slocum said.

GCSD Captain Ed Beaty said ISP was contacted and will handle the investigation

per the department's policy on officer-involved shootings.

"The Department is fully cooperating with the investigation," he said.

Slocum said the investigation is ongoing. When the investigation is complete, the information will be forwarded to the Grant County Prosecutor's Office for review.

Anyone with information regarding the case is asked to contact Slocum at 765-473-6666.

The Wabash Plain Dealer will update this story as more information becomes available.

## PULSE

From page A1

residents and first responders are eligible. Appointments can be scheduled by visiting <https://ourshot.in.gov>. Those needing assistance with registration can call 211 or one of Indiana's Area Agencies on Aging. A caregiver or loved one also may make an appointment on behalf of an eligible senior.

### Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution every other Wednesday

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 10 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27 and Wednesday, Feb. 24 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org), [classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](http://classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

### Grow Wabash County to postpone State of Our Communities event

Grow Wabash County has announced they will postpone the State of Our Communities event, which was formerly slated for Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Eagles Theatre, 106 W. Market St. The new date will be from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Thursday, April 1 at the Eagles Theatre. Registration will open in the coming weeks and further information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities to follow.

### Wabash Area Community Theater plans first show of 2021

"Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney will take place from Friday, Feb. 12 to Sunday, Feb. 14, which is Valentine's Day weekend. The show will be featured as "Dinner-tainment," performed in a dinner theater setting in the Big Four Ballroom located

in Charley Creek Inn. Dinner theater tickets are \$30 per person with advance purchase required. Show dates will be Friday, Feb. 12 and Saturday, Feb. 13. Doors and cash bar open at 6 p.m. The meal starts at 6:30 p.m. On Sunday, Feb. 14, the doors, cash bar and meal open at 12:30 p.m. For more information, email director Brett Robinson at [b.a.robinson@outlook.com](mailto:b.a.robinson@outlook.com).

### COVID-19 testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital "on an on-going basis." Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within

a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

### DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email [office@wabashfriends.org](mailto:office@wabashfriends.org), call 260-571-5235 or visit [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

*Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*



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1 BR 210 S Branson St; \$100/wk; tenant pays all utilities

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1 BR 1606 W Jeffras St; \$100/wk; tenant pays electric

1 BR 215 E 3rd St; \$150/wk; basic utilities included

2 BR 605 W 3rd St; \$140/wk; basic utilities included

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2 BR 509 E Bradford St; \$165-175/wk; basic utilities included

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**Legals**

The Liberty Township Board will meet Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Liberty Township Trustee's Office located at 8691 S 200 E, La Fontaine, IN 46940.

HSPAXLP.01/20/2021

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2 BR 2343 W 11th St; \$450/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 104 S Race St; \$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 501 W 1st St; \$500/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1208 E 30th St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR 1619 E Jeffras St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

3 BR, 2 BA 1621 S Boot St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

Converse 2 BR 909 E Wabash St; \$600/mo; tenant pays all utilities

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pantry, 1/2 frig, TV, WIFI, Cable, HBO, SHO, MAX, STARZ, parking included Working preferred. call for more information, Jim or Diane (916)995-4400

**Homes for Rent****MARION**

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Call us at 765-662-1499 or visit our website www.hoosierrentalgroup.com for more information

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No Smoking

One Level

Carport & Deck

2 Bedrooms

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Large furnished bedroom for rent in a large private home near MGH, 1.5 acres, pond.

\$350/395 mo or \$100/weekly upon approval, plus \$200 deposit. All utilities, kitchen,

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# Son may be hasty in plan to sign up for fatherhood

**DEAR ABBY:** My 25-year-old son has been dating a girl for two or three months. She seems very nice. She has two children and is pregnant with her third child. She's due in three months. The child is not my son's.

I was told by some friends of my son that he's planning to sign the birth certificate as the father. He understands the implications. How do I convince him

that, although he feels like he and this girl will be together for the long haul, this is a poor decision to make, especially because of the short length of time they have been dating? — Too Much, Too Soon

**DEAR TOO MUCH, TOO SOON:** Although it can be difficult to convince someone in the throes of new love, you and your son's friends should urge him to discuss this with a lawyer before signing ANYTHING. He needs input from someone who is not emotionally involved and can explain the legal ramifications of what he's considering.

Not all romances have storybook endings, but if this relationship leads to marriage in the future, he can always adopt or provide financially for the child if he wishes. I sincerely hope you and the others who care about him can get through to your son.

**DEAR ABBY:** My college-aged granddaughter is no longer speaking to me, answering my phone calls or allowing her other grandmother (who raised her) to post anything on Facebook where I can see what she is doing.

My granddaughter came to live with me last summer because she worked a summer job here. I asked her if she was gay, not because I think she is but as a prelude to a conversation about not allowing other girls to recruit her into a same-sex relationship as I saw in college and while teaching public school. Although I tried to explain, things have grown progressively worse.

My son and her mother married when she was 7 and divorced when she was 13.

Over the years, I worked hard to develop and maintain a relationship with her. Now, she has told the other grandmother that she will never speak to me again. Was what I did so bad, and what should I do now? — Other Grandmother In North Carolina

**DEAR OTHER:** What you said wasn't "bad," but it was misinformed and heavy-handed. While same-sex relationships do happen in high school and college, young people don't usually indulge unless they are already at least bi-curious. Even then, straight people don't suddenly "turn gay."

Your granddaughter may still be trying to figure out her sexual orientation, which could be why she has reacted so strongly. If you are wise, you will allow her the time she needs to sort it out, rather than push or panic.

**DEAR ABBY:** My daughter and I have a wonderful relationship. But I am very upset because she listens in on the speaker phone to every conversation I have with my 11-year-old grandson. I really believe we should have privacy, and I think it's strange that she does this. Is she justified, since she knows I'm disturbed by speakerphones in general? — Concerned Nana In The East

**DEAR CONCERNED:** You wrote that you have a wonderful relationship with your daughter. Have you asked her why she feels monitoring your calls to your grandson is justified? From my perspective, her behavior may be hypervigilant, but whether it is justified isn't a question that someone who isn't familiar with your family dynamics can answer.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## CROSSWORD

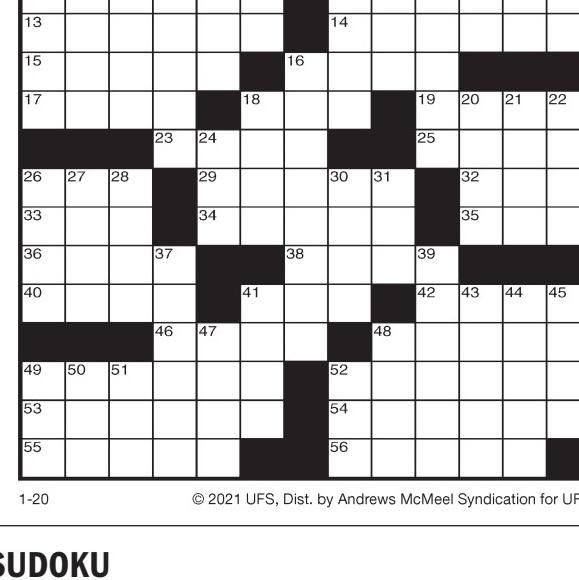
- ACROSS**
- 1 Frighten
  - 6 Drying ovens
  - 11 Used a razor
  - 12 More wacky
  - 13 Cliffside abodes
  - 14 Avoids capture
  - 15 Licit
  - 16 Mock
  - 17 Scout's handiwork
  - 18 Train alternative
  - 19 Wares
  - 23 Collar style
  - 25 Plunge
  - 26 Baby beaver
  - 29 Pizarro foes
  - 32 Stein filler
  - 33 Work by Keats
  - 34 Prudential competitor
  - 35 "That hurts!"
  - 36 Sock part
  - 38 Quaint hotels
- DOWN**
- 40 Tibetan monk
  - 41 Big snake
  - 42 Vacuum part
  - 46 Bridge section
  - 48 New and different
  - 49 Truck fuel
  - 52 City conduits
  - 53 Federated
  - 54 Come into view
  - 55 Table
  - 56 Rich cake
  - 11 Polio vaccine inventor
  - 12 Alphabet enders
  - 16 Crossroad part
  - 18 Skeleton part
  - 20 Make like a donkey
  - 21 Hacking tool
  - 22 Eject lava
  - 24 Senorita's aunt
  - 26 Eye shadow
  - 27 Brainstorm
  - 28 Overflow with
  - 30 Sigmund's daughter
  - 31 Diego
  - 32 Dog star
  - 33 Gym amenity
  - 34 Kind of eagle
  - 35 Plain as day
  - 36 Woolen fabric
  - 37 Who was there?
  - 38 Register word
  - 39 Seine
  - 40 Santa's little helper
  - 41 Firmed up
  - 42 Sigmund's daughter
  - 43 Plain as day
  - 44 Woolen fabric
  - 45 "Who was there?"
  - 46 Sigmund's daughter
  - 47 Fellow citizen
  - 48 Verne's skipper
  - 49 Pop
  - 50 Ait, on the Seine
  - 51 Santa's little helper
  - 52 Firmed up

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | R | M | I | R | K | S | B | L | A | H |
| G | E | E | C | I | A | O | L | O | N | E |
| O | P | T | E | N | Y | A | U | L | N | A |
| R | E | R | E | A | D | P | A | R | L | O |
| A | L | O | N | G |   | P | S | I |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | S | E | C | R | E |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | C | O | E | T |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | O | R | T |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | R | E | T |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | E | R | E |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |   | R | E | E |   |   |

ARM IRKS BLAH  
GEE CIAO LONE  
OPT ENYA ULNA  
REREAD PARLOR  
ALONG PSI  
SECRET POT  
PERU HOP SODA  
AGUE III APEX  
HOT TALCUM  
HAD NOBEL  
ABLEST CHARGE  
LEER AQUA ARF  
DESI BURN YET  
APSE SEED STY

**Dear Abby**



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## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| 6 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 8 |
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 |
| 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 |
| 9 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 |
| 7 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 1 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 7 |

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## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**TISEU**

**PUCEO**

**SRBABO**

**RYPITU**

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME  
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WITH MORE THAN 100 BILLION STARS ALL LIGHT-YEARS APART, THE MILKY WAY GALAXY IS --

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Saturday's Jumbles: AWARD STRUM CANOPY WRITER

Answer: When the campers heated up slices of bread on their campfire, they were — WARM AND TOASTY

(Answers tomorrow)

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**Come and watch, Billy! The president is gonna be sworn at.**

**By Bil Keane**

**BIL and JEFF KEANE**

**1-20**

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# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

**How to contact your legislators:**

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
[Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov)

**State Rep. David Winkins, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
[h18@in.gov](mailto:h18@in.gov)

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: [www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

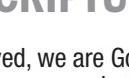
Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com) with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



## DAILY SCRIPTURE

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2

## OUR TAKE

# Free speech in the age of social media

When Twitter decided to remove President Donald Trump's account from its social media platform, it sent off a firestorm of reactions. Some of these concerns are justified, but some of these concerns are not based in sound judgment.

Republican lawmakers have long argued for private companies to have freedom to run their businesses without interference from the federal government, but now their minds have changed. GOP lawmakers want to step in and regulate how Twitter runs its company, crying foul about censorship based on political leanings.

Media pundits and public officials are claiming the banning of Trump from Twitter is a violation of his First Amendment rights, however, this is not the case. The First Amendment protects U.S. citizens from the government censoring protected speech. It does not protect against private companies banning or regulating speech on its platforms.

The First Amendment does not guarantee a right to operate a Twitter account. It also does not allow you to say anything you want, because courts have routinely ruled that speech which incites violence is not protected, just like how you cannot yell "fire" in a crowded theater when no such fire exists.

Twitter justified its actions by pointing to its internal policies, which Twitter says it applies equally to all of its users.

As a newspaper that champi-

ons the freedom of speech, we wish Twitter did not ban Trump indefinitely since they could remove specific tweets that violate their policies. But we do understand that as a private company, Twitter should not be forced by a government entity to act as the government sees fit regarding its internal policies.

Caution must be exercised when advocating for the government to step in and regulate private businesses because it creates a slippery slope.

At this time, Trump has other avenues to get his messages out to the public, and the government is not censoring his right to free speech.

The solution to this problem has already been implemented in the form of Parler, another platform that is very similar to Twitter but with a different set of internal policies. Parler has come under fire for recent comments made by users threatening public officials and advocating for violence, which is not protected speech. Speech advocating for violence surely isn't protected speech, and it surely isn't a good thing for any society.

Although Parler is currently shut down because of these issues regarding inciting violence, the solution to the Twitter conundrum would be for another entrepreneur to create a platform run by the President or his allies since these claims against Twitter seem politically motivated. Trump has already pondered such notions, but this would be a better way to handle the

situation than government intervention. In this solution, they can set the policies and enforce them accordingly.

It's far fetched to believe that Twitter is not uniform in applying its internal policies since other accounts have been banned for repeated violations of its policies as well.

The recent talks of taking away Section 230 protections would also have far-reaching implications on our freedom of speech. That federal law gives social media platforms like Twitter and Parler protections from the comments its users create. Twitter and Parler can't be held liable for defamatory comments or libelous speech made by its users, unlike publishers – such as a newspaper or other forms of media.

If Section 230 is taken away, it will force all social media platforms to begin curating its content to make sure users' comments are not forms of unprotected speech. This stifles discussion and would create more regulation of speech, not less.

Matters of free speech are complicated. That is why robust discussion is pivotal. However, we must tread lightly and explore all avenues related to changing the laws as they currently stand.

These debates will continue in the months to come. We hope politics doesn't dominate the decision making process, and we hope a decision isn't rushed. If those things do become involved, it would likely turn into a bad outcome.



## Trump's kinship with his critics

An autopsy of Donald Trump's presidency can proceed from an early example of his memorable utterances. On his 13th day in office, Feb. 1, 2017, the first day of Black History Month, he said: "Frederick Douglass is an example of somebody who's done an amazing job and is getting recognized more and more, I notice."

His word salad was interesting not because it revealed pristine ignorance concerning the African American leader, who died in 1895. Neither was it notable because of his ignorance about his ignorance. Rather, his statement about Douglass revealed, beyond his notorious laziness – forethought? preparation? unthinkable – his nonchalance about his ignorance.

This gave him an immunity to embarrassment, an immunity that was the crucial ingredient of his political magnetism for scores of millions of Americans mesmerized by the strange but undeniable charisma of Trump's serene obliviousness regarding reality. Clad in his armor of insouciant indifference about information, he displayed a jaunty disdain for facts that struck his supporters, not wrongly, as a rare kind of strength. It also made him more akin to many of his cultured despisers than he or they recognize.

He began his political career spouting birtherism and concluded it – he will not be back; like vaudeville, he is yesterday's entertainment – raving about an election-rigging conspiracy so vast that it involved legions in many states, and so

cunning that it left no evidence of itself. As Trump skittered across the surface of public life, many of his critics were too busy savoring their superiority to him to recognize their mental kinship with him.

They consciously, and he by cultural osmosis, are participants in the postmodern rejection of reason. He and they are collaborators in the rising rejection of the Enlightenment that produced classical liberalism and this republic.

Postmodernists say, with Nietzsche, that there are no facts,

only interpretations – alternative "narratives" about reality.

As Andrew Sullivan writes at Substack, to be "woke" is to be awake to this: All claims of disinterestedness, objectivity and universality are bogus.

So, reasoning is specious, and attempts at persuasion are

pointless. Hence, society is an arena of willfulness where all disagreements are power struggles among identity groups.

The concept of the individual disappears as identity becomes fluid, deriving from group membership.

Silence is violence; what is spoken is mandatory and must accord with the mentality of the listeners.

Welcome to campus.

In a world thus understood,

life is a comprehensively zero-sum struggle. Postmodernism rejects, as Adam Garfinkle writes, the Enlightenment belief

in a positive-sum social order in

which human beings, who are

both competitive and cooperative creatures, can prosper

without making others poorer.

Hence, the Enlightenment belief in, and Trump's disbelief in, free trade. Postmodernism is the ill-named revival of a

premodern mentality: The social order as constant conflict,

unleavened by trust and con-

strained only by the authoritarianism of the dominant group.

In "The Darkening Mind," written for American Purpose, Garfinkle says that "the farther we look left or right, we see the erosion of the" Enlightenment aspiration of institutionalizing positive-sum relationships. This aspiration, which gives dignity to modern politics, undergirds the case for capitalism – a spontaneous, consensual order of freely cooperating individuals.

In zero-sum thinking, Garfinkle says, "the consent of the governed" is "an empty piety" because legitimacy attaches to whichever group imposes dominance.

And as American culture and politics increasingly reveal,

"in the zero-sum mentality, no neutral space can exist in what is by definition a totally conflictual environment."

Postmodernism's politics is,

as Garfinkle says, an agglomeration of reheated Marxism

(only conflict is real, and it is

ubiquitous) and crypto-theology,

including secularized original sin (of the nation: see the

New York Times' 1619 Project)

and Christian martyrology

recycled in competitive claims of group victimhood.

As Trump's four-year snarl

ends, recognize that the least

intellectual president had a

mentality – such is the seepage

of intellectual fashions into

empty spectacles – akin to that

which has closed the academic mind.

To people whose social

theories and politics are infused

with postmodernism, Trump has

been like God – not because of

his perfect goodness and infinite

mercy, but because he is the

explanation of everything. Actu-

ally, postmodernists are part of

the explanation of him.

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## An attack on America's economy

The essential basis of an economy is trust. As the founding father of economics, Adam Smith noted an economy "... can seldom flourish in any state in which there is not a certain degree of confidence in the justice of government." Our modern world subsists almost wholly on a high degree of trust in the justice and capacity of government, business and households.

Thus, among the many crimes committed by the insurrectionists of Jan. 6 was a full-fledged attack on the American economy. It was an assault upon the 'confidence in the justice of government' not only by a few tens of thousands of protesters, but among far too many elected officials, including members of Congress and the president. It is they who must reckon with an event whose lawlessness demands terse retelling.

On Jan. 6, our Congress and vice president met to fulfill a solemn, if mostly symbolic, Constitutional duty to certify election results from states. Outside, on the streets of our Capitol, the president caused to assemble a crowd of many tens of thousands. This angry crowd was fueled by dozens of political groups and members of Congress. These people were carefully groomed for weeks to believe the Big Lie, that the 2020 election was fraudulent or stolen.

Nearly every elected official of the Republican Party participated in this Big Lie. For many, the support amounted to no more than what first seemed a banal statement about electoral fraud. For others, including the president, a dozen senators and two-thirds of the House, it was a full-throated, unambiguous, immoral and deeply anti-American falsehood.

Filled with the deceptiveness of this Big Lie, stoked by the fiery rhetoric of the president, this crowd attacked Congress. They stormed the physical center of American democracy with calls to kill the vice president and members of Congress. They paraded both NAZI and Confederate flags through the halls of Congress, something Hitler's generals could never imagine. They disgustingly tore down Old Glory, replacing it with a Trump banner. They hunted members of Congress, stole classified information and defecated upon the walls of Congress. Meanwhile, others amused themselves by bludgeoning a dying police officer with the American flag. This was not a protest, nor was it an accident. In the words of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, it was sedition and insurrection.

The U.S. election of 2020 was not fraudulent or stolen. Every elected Republican leader knew this when they awoke on January 6th. They knew it in November, and they know it now. Some Hoosiers, like Vice President Pence, Senator Young and Rep. Bucshon backed away from the Big Lie and its anti-American message before the insurrection started. Against what we now know were threats of terrorism they fulfilled their duty and oath of office. Others scurried away from the Big Lie only after Congress was stormed.

But, amid the stench-filled, bloody and battered Halls of Congress, four Hoosiers were among the more than 100 members of Congress voted to sustain the Big Lie. They must now explain how this vote was consistent with their oath to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. I do not believe they can do so convincingly.

As I write, the assault on our Republic and our economy continues. Due to this insurrection, nearly a full infantry division has been deployed to defend the Capitol. This is the result of the Big Lie and the inability of the Republican Party to confront the historic lawlessness of President Trump. It is time to do so, and make clear to every American citizen of the historic danger this insurrection brought to our nation.

Now, I don't wish to draw any false equivalence between this insurrection and other dark days in American history. When compared to 9/11, Nixon's resignation or Pearl Harbor, this insurrection is a far graver risk to our Constitution. The Big Lie brought to Washington, D.C. a violent mob, a president and members of Congress willing to sustain a pernicious and vividly obvious lie to thwart a peaceful transfer of power. Not since Gettysburg has our Constitution been more at risk.

It is too early to judge the damage this insurrection has done to our economy. The dark forces that assembled a crowd to attack the Capitol remain among us, damaging "confidence in the justice of government." No one understands the risk to our economy better than American businesses. Rarely, if ever, has the America's private sector responded as quickly and forcefully as they have done so this week.

Those who propagated lies about the election find themselves shedding financial supporters. Eli Lilly, Walmart and General Motors have all suspended support for those who voted against the certification of the 2020 election. More will follow suit, evicting future political campaigns. A number of insurrectionist groups, masquerading as conservative organizations will disappear in the weeks to come. America's businesses are keenly aware that our Constitution provides the platform for free commerce.

Likewise, those platforms of insurrection on social media find themselves unwelcomed from the marketplaces that enabled their communications. Those who stoke insurrection find themselves without access to social media accounts. The same Constitution that protects their right to speak does not obligate the rest of us to do business with them. They deserve the same commercial consideration an Al Qaeda propagandist or Joseph Goebbels would receive – none.

I am guardedly hopeful we can contain the economic fallout of this insurrection. It comes at a difficult time, with the nation battered by a global recession and pandemic. The best way to limit damage is to punish traitors and demand that those who spread the Big Lie renounce their dishonesty. We must acknowledge that the Constitution – not race, ethnicity or religion – must be central to our identity as an American. And finally, we must all acknowledge the results of a just and fair election that brought Joe Biden into office. We must also never forget this terror-fueled attack on the United States of America and its aim to damage "confidence in the justice of government."

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# U.S. virus deaths top 400K as Trump leaves office

By ADAM GELLER  
and JANIE HAR  
Associated Press

As President Donald Trump entered the final year of his term last January, the U.S. recorded its first confirmed case of COVID-19. Not to worry, Trump insisted, his administration had the virus "totally under control."

Now, in his final hours in office, after a year of presidential denials of reality and responsibility, the pandemic's U.S. death toll has eclipsed 400,000. And the loss of lives is accelerating.

"This is just one step on an ominous path of fatalities," said Dr. Irwin Redlener, director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Columbia University and one of many public health experts who contend the Trump administration's handling of the crisis led to thousands of avoidable deaths.

"Everything about how it's been managed has been infused with incompetence and dishonesty, and we're paying a heavy price," he said.

The 400,000-death toll, reported Tuesday by Johns Hopkins University, is greater than the population of New Orleans, Cleveland or Tampa, Florida. It's nearly equal to the number of American lives lost annually to strokes, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, flu and pneumonia combined.

With more than 4,000

deaths recorded on some recent days — the most since the pandemic began — the toll by week's end will probably surpass the number of Americans killed in World War II.

"We need to follow the science and the 400,000th death is shameful," said Cliff Daniels, chief strategy officer for Methodist Hospital of Southern California, near Los Angeles. With its morgue full, the hospital has parked a refrigerated truck outside to hold the bodies of COVID-19 victims until funeral homes can retrieve them.

"It's so incredibly, unimaginably sad that so many people have died that could have been avoided," he said.

President-elect Joe Biden, who will be sworn in on Wednesday, planned to take part in an evening ceremony Tuesday near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington to honor the 400,000 dead. The bell at the Washington National Cathedral was set to toll 400 times. Other cities around the U.S. planned tributes as well.

The U.S. accounts for nearly 1 of every 5 virus deaths reported worldwide, far more than any other country despite its great wealth and medical resources.

The coronavirus would almost certainly have posed a grave crisis for any president given its rapid spread and power to kill, experts on public health and government said.

**"Why would you bench the CDC, the greatest fighting force of infectious disease in the world? Why would you call Tony Fauci a disaster? It just doesn't make sense."**

DR. HOWARD MARKEL,  
Medical historian at the University of Michigan

But Trump seemed to invest as much in battling public perceptions as he did in fighting the virus itself, repeatedly downplaying the threat and rejecting scientific expertise while fanning conflicts ignited by the outbreak.

As president he was singularly positioned to counsel Americans. Instead, he used his pulpit to spout theories — refuted by doctors — that taking unproven medicines or even injecting household disinfectant might save people from the virus.

The White House defended the administration this week.

"We grieve every single life lost to this pandemic, and thanks to the president's leadership, Operation Warp Speed has led to the development of multiple safe and effective vaccines in record time, something many said would never happen," said White House spokesman Judd Deere.

With deaths spiraling in the New York City area last spring, Trump declared "war" on the virus. But he was slow to invoke the Defense Production Act to secure desperately needed medical equipment. Then he sought to avoid responsibility for shortfalls, saying

that the federal government was "merely a backup" for governors and legislatures. "I think it is the first time in history that a president has declared a war and we have experienced a true national crisis and then dumped responsibility for it on the states," said Drew Altman, president of the Kaiser Family Foundation, a health care policy think tank.

When the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tried to issue guidelines for reopening in May, Trump administration officials held them up and watered them down. As the months passed, Trump claimed he was smarter than the scientists and belittled experts like Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top authority on infectious diseases.

**"Why would you bench the CDC, the greatest fighting force of infectious disease in the world? Why would you call Tony Fauci a disaster?"** asked Dr. Howard Markel, a medical historian at the University of Michigan. "It just doesn't make sense."

As governors came under pressure to reopen state economies, Trump pushed them to move faster, asserting falsely that the virus

was fading. "LIBERATE MINNESOTA!" he tweeted in April as angry protesters gathered at the state Capitol to oppose the Democratic governor's stay-at-home restrictions. "LIBERATE MICHIGAN!"

In Republican-led states like Arizona that allowed businesses to reopen, hospitals and morgues filled with virus victims.

"It led to the tragically sharp partisan divide we've seen in the country on COVID, and that has fundamental implications for where we are now, because it means the Biden administration can't start over," Altman said. "They can't put the genie back in the bottle."

In early October, when Trump himself contracted COVID-19, he ignored safety protocols, ordering up a motorcade so he could wave to supporters outside his hospital. Once released, he appeared on the White House balcony to take off his mask for the cameras, making light of health officials' pleas for people to cover their faces.

"We're rounding the corner," Trump said of the battle with the virus during a debate with Biden in late October. "It's going away."

It isn't. U.S. deaths from COVID-19 surpassed 100,000 in late May, then tripled by mid-December. Experts at the University of Washington project deaths will reach nearly 567,000 by

May 1.

More than 120,000 patients with the virus are in the hospital in the U.S., according to the COVID Tracking Project, twice the number who filled wards during previous peaks. On a single day last week, the U.S. recorded more than 4,400 deaths.

While vaccine research funded by the administration as part of Warp Speed has proved successful, the campaign trumpeted by the White House to rapidly distribute and administer millions of shots has fallen well short of the early goals officials set.

"Young people are dying, young people who have their whole lives ahead of them," said Mawata Kamara, a nurse at California's San Leandro Hospital who is furious over the surging COVID-19 cases that have overwhelmed health care workers. "We could have done so much more."

Many voters considered the federal government's response to the pandemic a key factor in their vote: 39 percent said it was the single most important factor, and they overwhelmingly backed Biden over Trump, according to AP VoteCast.

But millions of others stood with him.

"Here you have a pandemic," said Eric Dezenhall, a Washington crisis management consultant, "yet you have a massive percent of the population that doesn't believe it exists."

## 'We know this is real': New clinics aid virus 'long-haulers'

By JENNIFER PELTZ  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — COVID-19 came early for Catherine Busa, and it never really left.

The 54-year-old New York City school secretary didn't have any underlying health problems when she caught the coronavirus in March, and she recovered at her Queens home.

But some symptoms lingered: fatigue she never experienced during years of rising at 5 a.m. for work; pain, especially in her hands and wrists; an altered sense of taste and smell that made food unappealing; and a welling depression. After eight months of suffering, she made her way to Jamaica Hospital Medical Center — to a clinic specifically for post-COVID-19 care.

"I felt myself in kind of a hole, and I couldn't look on the bright side," Busa said. She did not feel helped by visits to other doctors. But it was different at the clinic.

"They validated the way I felt," she said. "That has helped me push through everything I'm fighting."

The clinic is one of dozens of such facilities that have cropped up around the U.S. to address a puzzling aspect of COVID-19 — the effects that can stubbornly afflict some people weeks or months after the infection itself has subsided.

The programs' approaches vary, but they share the goal of trying to comprehend, treat and give credence to patients who cannot get free of the virus that has infected more than 24 million Americans and killed about 400,000.

"We know this is real," said Dr. Alan Roth, who oversees the Jamaica Hospital clinic. He has been grappling with body pain, fatigue and "brain fog" characterized by occasional forgetfulness since his own relatively mild bout with COVID-19 in March.

Like so much else in the pandemic, the scientific picture of so-called long-haulers is still developing. It's not clear how prevalent long-term COVID problems are or why some patients keep suffering while others do not.

Current indications are that up to 30 percent of patients continue to have significant problems that intrude on daily life two to three weeks after testing positive. Perhaps as many as 10 percent are still afflicted three to six months later, according to Dr. Wesley Self, a Vanderbilt University

emergency physician and researcher who co-wrote a July report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Doctors have known for months that intensive care patients can face extended recoveries. But many COVID-19 long-haulers were never critically ill.

At the University of Texas Medical Branch's post-COVID-19 clinic in Clear Lake, patients range in age from 23 to 90. Half were never hospitalized, said the clinic's director, Dr. Justin Seashore.

"They were told they should be feeling better, and they didn't," he said. Instead, they were left with fatigue, shortness of breath, anxiety, depression, difficulty concentrating or other problems they did not have before.

Some were told they would have to be on oxygen for the rest of their lives. A highlight has been helping many of them get off it through treatment that can include respiratory therapy, occupational therapy, mental health check-ins and more, Seashore said.

Long-term COVID-19 care has been launched in settings ranging from big research hospitals like New York's Mount Sinai, which has over 1,600 patients, to St. John's Well Child and Family Center, a network of community clinics in south Los Angeles.

Rather than focusing specifically on patients who still feel sick, St. John's aims to schedule a physical exam, a behavioral health visit and monthly follow-ups with everyone who tests positive at one of its clinics, CEO Jim Mangia said. Nearly 1,000 patients have come in for exams.

Since Luciana Flores contracted the virus in June, she has been contending with back pain, stomach problems, shortness of breath and worry. The mother of three lost her job at a laundry amid the pandemic, and she doesn't feel well enough to look for work.

St. John's has helped, she said, by diagnosing and treating a bacterial infection in her digestive system.

"I think it's really important for other patients to receive the same care," Flores, 38, said through a Spanish interpreter. "I don't feel the same. I don't think anything will ever be the same, but there's no other way around it: I have to keep moving forward."

There's no proven cure for

long-term COVID problems. But clinics aim to offer relief, not least by giving patients somewhere to turn if their usual doctor can't help.

"We wanted to create a place that patients could get answers or feel heard," even if there are still unanswered questions, said Dr. Denyse Lutchmansingh, the clinical lead physician at Yale Medicine's Post-COVID Recovery Program.

At the Jamaica Hospital program, patients get mental health assessments, a lung specialist's attention and physical exams that delve deeper than most into their lifestyles, personal circumstances and sources of stress. Several hundred people have been treated so far, Roth said.

The idea is to help patients "build their own healing capacity," said Dr. Wayne Jonas, former director of the National Institutes of Health's Office of Alternative Medicine. He is now with the Samueli Foundation, a California-based nonprofit that works with the hospital on marrying alternative ideas with conventional medicine.

The long-haulers get exercise and diet plans and group or individual mental health sessions. Recommendations for supplements, breathing exercises and meditation are also likely. That's in addition to any prescriptions, referrals or primary care follow-ups that are deemed necessary.

"We're not just saying, 'It's all in your head, and we're going to throw herbs and spices at you,'" Roth said. With no tidy, proven answer for the complex of symptoms, "we do a common-sense approach and take the best of what's out there to treat these people."

Busa got a test that determined she has sleep apnea, which causes people to stop breathing while asleep and often feel fatigued when awake. She is getting a device for that and is using wrist braces and getting injections to ease her pain. Her program also includes psychotherapy appointments, supplements and new daily routines of walking, riding a stationary bike and writing in a journal about what she has to feel grateful for.

Busa feels she is coming along, especially in terms of her mood, and credits the clinic.

"There's light at the end of the tunnel," she said, "and there are people and doctors out there who can relate to me."

Unbeknownst to Bridges,

## Inaugural event to celebrate resiliency of Black Americans

By KAT STAFFORD  
Associated Press

our nation come together to celebrate a new chapter in our history."

Several of the nation's top Black leaders will deliver remarks, including House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn, a close ally of Biden whose endorsement in South Carolina widened Biden's winning margin and started his avalanche of March primary victories.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is slated to speak at Tuesday's event, "We Are One," which will also honor the historic nature of her being the first Black and South Asian woman to become U.S. vice president.

Black voters nationwide helped deliver Biden's presidency, overwhelmingly supporting him from the start of his White House bid. Black-led organizing work across the nation galvanized voters of color and contributed to historic turnout in key battleground states.

Tony Allen, CEO of the inaugural committee, said the programming will "honor acts of resilience, heroism, and commitment to unity" from Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities "as the coalitions that make up

appearances from activists and celebrities. It'll be hosted by Terrence J and feature Leslie Jones, DJ D-Nice, and Black cultural icons such as Frankie Beverly, The O'Jays, and Rapsody.

The celebration also includes a Battle of the Bands and features several HBCUs, including: Delaware State University, Howard University, the Texas Southern University Debate Team, Florida A&M University Marching 100, Grambling State University World Famed Marching Band, Jackson State University Sonic Boom of the South, Louisiana Leadership Institute All-Star Marching Band, South Carolina State University Marching 101, Southern University Human Jukebox Marching Band, and the Tennessee State University Aristocrat of Bands.

The event is part of five planned days of programming under the inaugural's theme of "America United." It will air Tuesday from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. ET on social media and on select channels, including Urban One, Revolt TV and The Choice channel on Peacock, NBCUniversal's streaming service.

## U.S. soldier arrested in plot to blow up NYC 9/11 Memorial

NEW YORK (AP) — A U.S. Army soldier was arrested Tuesday in Georgia on terrorism charges after he spoke online about plots to blow up New York City's 9/11 Memorial and other landmarks and attack U.S. soldiers in the Middle East, authorities said Tuesday.

Cole James Bridges of Stow, Ohio, was in custody on charges of attempted material support of a terrorist organization — the Islamic State group — and attempted murder of a military member, said Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for Manhattan federal prosecutors.

The 20-year-old soldier, also known as Cole Gonzales, was with the Third Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, when he thought he was communicating with the Islamic State online about the terrorism plots, Biase said.

"Fortunately, the person with whom he communicated was an FBI employee, and we were able to prevent his evil desires from coming to fruition," Sweeney said in a release.

Unbeknownst to Bridges,

an FBI employee was in on the chat as Bridges provided detailed instructions on tactics and manuals and advice about attacking the memorial and other targets in New York City, Biase said.

"As we allege today, Bridges, a private in the U.S. Army, betrayed our country and his unit when he plotted with someone he believed was an ISIS sympathizer to help ISIS attack and kill U.S. soldiers in the Middle East," said William F. Sweeney Jr., head of New York City's FBI office.

"Fortunately, the person with whom he communicated was an FBI employee, and we were able to prevent his evil desires from coming to fruition," Sweeney said in a release.

"Our troops risk their lives for our country, but they should never face such peril at the hands of one of their own," U.S. Attorney Audrey

Strauss said.

Bridges was scheduled to make an initial appearance in federal court in Augusta, Georgia, on Thursday.

It was not immediately clear who would represent him.

According to a criminal complaint in Manhattan federal court, Bridges joined the U.S. Army in September 2019 and was assigned as a cavalry scout in Fort Stewart.

At some point, he began researching and consuming online propaganda promoting jihadists and their violent ideology, authorities said.

They said he expressed his support for the Islamic State group and jihad on social media before he began communicating in October with an FBI employee who posed as an Islamic State group supporter in contact with the group's fighters in the Middle East.

## Ontario asks Biden for a million vaccines amid shortage

By ROB GILLIES

Associated Press

TORONTO — Canada won't be getting any Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines next week and 50 percent fewer than expected over the next month, officials said Tuesday, prompting the leader of Canada's most populous province to ask U.S. President-elect Joe Biden to share a million doses from Pfizer's Michigan plant.

Maj. Gen. Dany Fortin, who is leading Canada's logistical rollout and distribution of vaccines, called it a major reduction, but said Pfizer is still expected to meet its contractual obligation to ship four million doses to Canada by the end of March.

U.S. pharmaceutical company Pfizer confirmed last week it would temporarily reduce deliveries to Europe and Canada of its COVID-19 vaccine while it upgrades production capacity at its plant in Puurs, Belgium. Pfizer's Belgian plant supplies all shots delivered outside the U.S. Fortin said other countries have been impacted this week and that Canada will be impacted next week.

"Pfizer assured me and Canada of equitable treatment," Procurement Minister Anita Anand said.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said when he spoke to German Chancellor Angela Merkel this week, she told him that media have been asking her why Germany isn't doing as well as

Canada on vaccines.

Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, Canada's most populous province, said he's angry. He asked Biden to help Canada out, noting there's a Pfizer plant in Michigan.

"Our American friends, help us out," Ford said. "You have a new president, no more excuses. Help us out."

Ford notes Ontario is a large trading partner to the U.S.

"I can't help but ask the president," Ford said. "The least thing you can do ... give us a million vaccines. You have a hundred million down there. Give your great neighbor which stands shoulder to shoulder with you a million vaccines to get us over the hump. That's what we would love to see from the president."

## Kremlin brushes aside Western calls to release Navalny

By DARIA LITVINNOVA

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Kremlin on Tuesday brushed aside calls from the West to release opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was arrested upon his return to Russia from Germany following treatment for poisoning with a nerve agent. Moscow called his case "an absolutely internal matter."

Navalny blames his poisoning on President Vladimir Putin's government, which has denied it. The condemnations of his arrest and the calls from abroad for his release have added to the existing tensions between Russia and the West. Some European Union countries are suggesting more sanctions against Moscow.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that "we can't and are not going to take these statements into account."

"We are talking about a fact of noncompliance with the Russian law by a citizen of Russia. This is an absolutely internal matter and we will not allow anyone to interfere in it and do not intend to listen to such statements," Peskov said.

Navalny, 44, was detained Sunday evening at passport control at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport after arriving from Berlin, where he was treated following the poisoning in August. On Monday, he was ordered to pre-trial detention for 30 days during a court hearing that was hastily set up in a police precinct where Navalny was being held.

Russia's prison service maintains that Navalny, Russia's most prominent opposition figure and anti-corruption campaigner, violated the probation terms of his suspended sentence on a 2014 money-laundering conviction, which was deemed "arbitrary" by the European Court of Human Rights.

Officials are seeking to send Navalny to prison to serve

the 3 1/2-year suspended sentence.

He has interpreted the crackdown against him as a sign of Putin's fear. Peskov dismissed suggestions that Putin was afraid of Navalny as "nonsense" and insisted that he had violated the law. The spokesman said the questions law enforcement had for Navalny "have nothing whatsoever to do with the Russian president."

Navalny fell into a coma while aboard a domestic flight from Siberia to Moscow on Aug. 20 and was flown to a Berlin hospital two days later. Labs in Germany, France and Sweden, and tests by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, established that he was exposed to a Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent.

Russian authorities insisted that the doctors who treated Navalny in Siberia found no traces of poison and refused to open a full-fledged criminal investigation.

Last month, Navalny released the recording of a phone call he said he made to a man who he alleged was a member of a group of officers of Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, who purportedly poisoned him in August and then tried to cover it up. The FSB has dismissed the recording as fake.

After Navalny was jailed Monday, his allies announced preparations for nationwide protests on Saturday and released a video of Navalny urging people to not "be afraid" and "take to the streets."

Peskov said that while the calls to take to the streets were "alarming," the Kremlin didn't fear mass protests.

Also on Tuesday, Navalny's Foundation for Fighting Corruption released a two-hour video investigation of what they called "Putin's palace" — an estate on Russia's Black Sea that they said cost \$1.3 billion and was allegedly funded through an elaborate corruption scheme

involving Putin's inner circle.

In the video produced and recorded before his arrest, Navalny claims that the estate and grounds that Russian media had linked to Putin years ago is 39 times the size of Monaco.

The video featured drone video of the estate and detailed floor plans that Navalny says were leaked to his team by a contractor. Among the 3D images of interiors that the team said were created based on the floor plans and other sources were a hookah lounge, a small theater and a casino room.

The investigation alleged that the estate, located in a secluded area that is heavily guarded by Russia's security forces, also had an underground ice rink and a tunnel from the mansion to the shore.

"It is the most secretive and guarded facility in Russia," Navalny says in the video. "It isn't a country house or a residence — it's an entire city, or rather a kingdom."

Within several hours of being posted on YouTube, the video received over 3 million views.

Peskov told Russian media the allegations in Navalny's investigation were "untrue."

In a statement Tuesday from pre-trial detention, Navalny encouraged his supporters to fight against "corruption, lies and lawlessness."

"I refuse to stay silent, listening to the shameless lies of Putin and his friends mired in corruption. Corruption, lies and lawlessness make the lives of each of us worse, poorer and shorter. So why should we put up with it?" read the statement, posted on Navalny's Instagram page.

In the video, Navalny's team once again urged supporters to take to the streets on Saturday. "Navalny has been fighting for our rights for many years. It is our turn to fight for him," a short message says at the beginning of the video.

## Group: Billion in aid needed to help Afghan kids in 2021

By RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Some 10 million children in war-ravaged Afghanistan are at risk of not having enough food to eat in 2021, a humanitarian organization said Tuesday and called for \$1.3 billion in new funds for aid.

Just over 18 million Afghans, including 9.7 million children, are badly in need of lifesaving support, including food, Save the Children said in a statement. The group called for \$1.3 billion in donations to pay for assistance in 2021.

Chris Nyamandi, the organization's Afghanistan country director, said Afghans are suffering under a combination of violent conflict, poverty and the virus pandemic. "It's a desperately bad situation that needs urgent attention from the international community," he said.

The latest round of peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government negotiators that began earlier this month in Qatar has been slow to produce results as concerns grow over a recent spike in violence across Afghanistan.

The pandemic has also had a disastrous impact on millions of Afghan families. In 2020, the World Bank estimated that the pandemic had hugely disrupted imports, including vital household items, which in turn led to rapid inflation. The added health and economic strains of the pandemic have deepened the humanitarian impact across the country.

Many Afghans also blame runaway government corruption and lawlessness for the country's poor economy.

The U.N. and its humanitarian partners will seek \$1.3 billion in aid for 16 million Afghans in need this year, U.N.

secretary-general spokesman Stephane Dujarric, said this month. That's up from an estimated 2.3 million people last year who needed life-saving assistance.

"It's a huge increase in people who need aid," he said.

Nyamandi said that with no immediate end in sight to the decades-long conflict, millions of people will continue to suffer. "It's especially hard on children, many of whom have known nothing but violence," he said.

According to the U.N., nearly 6,000 people — a third of them children — were killed or wounded in fighting in Afghanistan between January and September last year, Nyamandi said. The violence continues to force hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes every year and limit people's access to resources including hospitals and clinics.

## Panel: China, WHO should have acted quicker to stop pandemic

By MARIA CHENG

and JAMEY KEATEN

Associated Press

GENEVA — A panel of experts commissioned by the World Health Organization has criticized China and other countries for not moving to stem the initial outbreak of the coronavirus earlier and questioned whether the U.N. health agency should have labeled it a pandemic sooner.

"The bottom line is WHO has no powers to enforce anything," she said. "All it can do is ask to be invited in."

In a report issued to the media Monday, the panel led by former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said there were "lost opportunities" to adopt basic public health measures as early as possible.

"What is clear to the panel is that public health measures could have been applied more forcefully by local and national health authorities in China in January," it said.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying disputed whether China had reacted too slowly.

"As the first country to sound the global alarm against the epidemic, China made immediate and decisive decisions," she said, pointing out that Wuhan — where the first human cases were identified — was locked down within three weeks of the outbreak starting.

"All countries, not only China, but also the U.S., the U.K., Japan or any other countries, should all try to do better," Hua said.

An Associated Press investigation in June found WHO repeatedly lauded China in public while officials privately complained that Chinese officials stalled on sharing critical epidemic information with them, including the new virus' genetic sequence. The story noted that WHO didn't have any

enforcement powers.

At a press briefing on Tuesday, Johnson Sirleaf said it was up to countries whether they wanted to overhaul WHO to accord it more authority to stamp out outbreaks, saying the organization was also constrained by its lack of funding.

"The bottom line is WHO has no powers to enforce anything," she said. "All it can do is ask to be invited in."

Last week, an international team of WHO-led scientists arrived in Wuhan to research the animal origins of the pandemic after months of political wrangling to secure China's approval for the probe.

The panel also cited evidence of COVID-19 cases in other countries in late January, saying public health containment measures should have been put in place immediately in any country with a likely case, adding: "They were not."

The experts also wondered why WHO did not declare a global public health emergency — its highest warning for outbreaks — sooner. The U.N. health agency convened its emergency committee on Jan. 22, but did not characterize the emerging pandemic as an international emergency until a week later.

"One more question is whether it would have helped if WHO used the word pandemic earlier than it did," the panel said.

WHO did not describe the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic until March 11, weeks after the virus had begun causing explosive outbreaks in numerous continents, meeting WHO's own definition for a flu pandemic.

As the coronavirus began spreading across the globe, WHO's top experts disputed how infectious the virus was, saying it was not as

contagious as flu and that people without symptoms only rarely spread the virus. Scientists have since concluded that COVID-19 transmits even quicker than the flu and that a significant proportion of spread is from people who don't appear to be sick.

Over the past year, WHO has come under heavy criticism for its handling of the response to COVID-19. U.S. President Donald Trump slammed the U.N. health agency for "colluding" with China to cover up the extent of the initial outbreak before halting U.S. funding for WHO and pulling the country out of the organization.

The U.N. health agency bowed to the international pressure at the annual assembly of its member states last spring by creating the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response. The WHO chief appointed Johnson Sirleaf and Clark — who both have previous ties to the U.N. agency — to lead the team, whose work is funded by WHO.

Although the panel concluded that "many countries took minimal action to prevent the spread (of COVID-19) internally and internationally," it did not name specific countries. It also declined to call out WHO for its failure to more sharply criticize countries for their missteps instead of commanding countries for their response efforts.

Last month, the author of a withdrawn WHO report into Italy's pandemic response said he warned his bosses in May that people could die and the agency could suffer "catastrophic" reputational damage if it allowed political concerns to suppress the document, according to emails obtained by the AP.

To date, the pandemic has killed more than 2 million people worldwide.

## Meghan seeks court ruling over 'serious breach' of privacy

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

to Britain's Prince Harry in 2018.

Associated Newspapers is contesting the claim, and a full trial is due to be held in the autumn at the High Court, in what would be one of London's highest-profile civil court show-downs for years.

The duchess is seeking a summary judgment that would find in her favor and dismiss the newspaper's defense case. Her lawyer, Justin Rushbrooke, argued that the publisher had "no real prospect" of winning the case.

Meghan's latest attempt to protect her privacy laid bare more details of her fraught relationship with her estranged father, who claims he has been "vilified" as a dishonest publicity-seeker.

The former Meghan Markle, 39, is suing Associated Newspapers for invasion of privacy and copyright infringement over five February 2019 articles in the Mail on Sunday and on the MailOnline website that published portions of a handwritten letter to her father, Thomas Markle, after her marriage

wedding-preparation shots taken by a paparazzi agency. In the end, he didn't attend the wedding ceremony after suffering a heart attack.

Rushbrooke said Meghan's letter, sent in August 2018, was "a message of peace" whose aim was "to stop him talking to the press."

He said the duchess took steps to ensure the five-page, 1,250-word letter wouldn't be intercepted, sending it by FedEx through her accountant to her father's home in Mexico. The letter implored Thomas Markle to stop speaking to the media, saying: "Your actions have broken my heart into a million pieces."

The last sentences, read out in court, were: "I ask for nothing other than peace. And I wish the same for you."

Rushbrooke said the fact that the duchess is a public figure "does not reduce her expectation of privacy in relation to information of this kind."

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# Sports

A10

Wednesday, January 20, 2021

[WabashPlainDealer.com](http://WabashPlainDealer.com)

## Squires' comeback tops Apaches

Manchester boys junior varsity and varsity teams take the win from Wabash

By ALINA REED  
[sports@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:sports@wabashplaindealer.com)

Fans of Wabash county basketball got to see a great game as Wabash traveled to Manchester Friday night looking for a win.

The Squires varsity basketball team was looking for another clean sweep to add to its resume. Starting for Manchester was senior Weston Hamby, senior Carter Bedke, junior Cade Jones, senior Max Carter and senior Brayden Jones.

Within the first 15 seconds of the game, Carter scored two points for the Squires. Wabash showcased a great moment of defense in the first quarter, leaving Manchester passing frantically for 45 seconds. In turn, the Squires lost their momentum. Halfway through the second quarter, Manchester was down by 15 points. In the last half of the second quarter, the Squires were able to pull together and left the halftime score at 22-27.

Starting off the third quarter, Manchester knew they would have to kick it in high gear if they wanted to bring home a win. The boys continued to reel in more points, inching closer to Wabash.

With 1:48 left in the third quarter, Jones brought the score to a tie. The rest of the quarter turned into a battle to break the tie. Wabash lost control of the ball with 40 seconds left and Jones was able to bring Manchester into the lead. The third quarter

ended at 45-41.

"As a team we really struggled with scoring in the first half of the game," said Bedke. "I think this is one of the first games where we had more than one or two guys have a good scoring night. With that, I think that's why we were able to make such a comeback."

The final quarter was stressful with the scores so tight. With each quarter, Manchester continued to gain more confidence and momentum as the night continued. Hamby, Carter, Jones and Bedke were strong contributors to Manchester's scoring in the last quarter. With a comeback so strong, Wabash fell behind.

Finishing on top was the Squires with a final score of 69-58.

"I think this tonight has prepared us for our next game to not come out as flat in the beginning and to really set the tempo from the start of the game," said Carter.

Top scoring for Manchester's varsity team was Hamby with 23 points, Carter with 15 points and Jones with 12 points for the evening.

In the junior varsity game, Freshman Jacob Heath started off the game with no hesitation, scoring the first two points for the Squires within the first four seconds of the quarter. The first quarter continued slow as far as points were concerned. The quarter ended 6-2, Squires lead.

Throughout the second half, Wabash did their best



Photo by ALINA REED / sports@wabashplaindealer.com

Manchester High School senior Max Carter attempts to block Wabash High School sophomore Kolton Wilson from scoring on Friday, Jan. 15. Carter scored 15 points for the night.

to surpass Manchester. The Squires were able to hold double the points of the Apaches up to halftime. The halftime score ended at 18-9.

As third and fourth quarter progressed, Wabash started to lose their drive and Manchester capitalized on that. Manchester took the win against Wabash with the final score at 48-31.

Top scoring for Manchester's junior varsity team was junior Gabe Case with 12

points, freshman Garret Sites with 10 points and freshman Gavin Martin with 10 points.

Wabash will be looking for a win as they host Mississinewa High School Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m.

Manchester will be back in action as they host Southwood High School Tuesday, Jan. 19 at 7:45 p.m.

Alina Reed, Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter, may be reached by email at [sports@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:sports@wabashplaindealer.com).

## Spartans surge past Quakers for 84-81 victory

MU converted 23 of 28 foul shot attempts, good for 82.1 percent

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University men's basketball team earned a hard-fought 84-81 victory over the visiting Earlham Quakers on Friday night in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena.

After leading by three, 40-37, at halftime, the host Spartans quickly fell behind by double digits early in the second period. The visiting Quakers utilized a 24-7 run over nearly six minutes of game clock to build their largest lead of the night of 61-47. Jamel Barnes scored 13 of his game-high 26 points during the surge for Earlham.

Manchester Head Coach Nate Conley kept preaching to his team, "One possession at a time, one possession at a time."

The Spartans did just that as the Black and Gold slowly chipped into the Earlham advantage. A three-point play by senior Matt Westman, from Michigan City, at the 11:27 mark ignited a 20-2 run that spanned over five minutes of the game clock.

Freshman Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley, and Prairie Heights High School, converted an old-fashioned three-point play to tie the



By ROB BURGESS / Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Freshman Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley, and Prairie Heights High School, scored seven of his 16 points during one run, highlighted by a dunk in transition.

scored seven of his 16 points during the run, highlighted by a dunk in transition.

Seniors CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, and Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette, and Lafayette Jefferson High School, chipped in key baskets during MU's critical run. A layup by Buckner at the 6:30 mark of the second half put the Spartans ahead 67-65.

Earlham answered back with an 8-0 push to regain a late lead over Manchester. Manchester rallied right back with a pair of free throws from CJ Hampton. After Earlham split a pair of free throws, Brandon Christlieb converted an old-fashioned

game at 74.

After getting a stop on its next possession, the Spartan youngster Christlieb put MU ahead for good with a driving layup through traffic.

Manchester got clutch foul shooting from its senior trio of Cortiz Buckner, CJ Hampton, and Matt Westman in the game's final minutes. The trio went a combined 8-10 to help Manchester win its second game of the season.

Hampton led the Black and Gold with 23 points and 10 rebounds, good enough for his seventh career double-double. Both Cortiz Buckner and Brandon Christlieb scored 16 points.

Buckner added seven assists. Freshman Jackson Jannsen,

from Carmel, scored 13 points. Matt Westman finished with 11 points.

For the game, the Black and Gold shot 28-58 (48.3 percent) from the field. MU converted 23 of 28 foul shot attempts, good for 82.1 percent.

Earlham finished 25-58 (43.1 percent) from the field and went 26-28 at the charity stripe.

The Spartans converted 19 Quaker turnovers into 21 points. EC held a 41-27 advantage on the glass.

Manchester (2-0) traveled to Earlham (0-1) for a 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16 contest.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director at Manchester University.

## Teresak added to MU men's soccer coaching staff

He started in goal for four years at Lock Haven University

By DILLON BENDER

Manchester University head men's soccer coach Corey Brueggeman has added Troy Teresak to his coaching staff as an assistant coach.

Teresak comes to Manchester University from NCAA Division II-member Mercyhurst University, located in Erie, Pennsylvania, where he was an assistant women's soccer coach.

During his time with the Lakers, Teresak worked

with the Mercyhurst goalkeepers. In 2019, Coach Teresak helped orchestrate a four-win improvement in the highly competitive Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC).

The Lakers' goalkeepers also posted 10 shutouts and posted a goals against average (GAA) of 1.33 during the 2019 campaign, ranking second and fourth in the PSAC, respectively.

As an athlete, Teresak started in goal for four years at NCAA Division II-member Lock Haven University. He was named LHU Team MVP as a senior in 2017. Teresak was a four-time PSAC Scholar-Athlete and was named to the Lock Ha-

ven Dean's List. He also earned an Athletic Directors Association (ADS) Division II Academic Achievement Award.

Teresak has a USSF D Coaching License and has United Soccer Coaches Level 1 and Level II Goalkeeping Diplomas. He has additional experience as a goalkeeper coach with various Erie soccer clubs.

Teresak graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Lock Haven in 2018. He finished his master's degree in applied intelligence from Mercyhurst University in 2020.

Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.

Provided photo  
 Manchester University head men's soccer coach Corey Brueggeman has added Troy Teresak to his coaching staff as an assistant coach.

## SCOREBOARD

### HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Indiana High School Boys Basketball Poll

CLASS 4A

W-L Pts Prv

1. Lawrence North (9) 13-0 198 1

2. Homestead (1) 14-0 182 3

3. Indianapolis Cathedral 10-1 154 5

4. Carmel 10-1 136 2

5. S. Bend Adams 12-0 113 6

6. Indianapolis Attucks 12-2 99 8

7. Lafayette Jeff 12-1 71 4

8. Crown Point 6-0 54 10

9. Zionsville 9-3 50 9

10. Westfield 9-2 47 7

(tie) Plainfield 10-1 47 NR

Others receiving votes: Gary West 29.

Warren Central 8. Bloomington North 6. Ev.

Reitz 6.

CLASS 3A

W-L Pts Prv

1. Heritage Hills (7) 9-0 181 1

2. Hammond (3) 8-1 171 2

3. Silver Creek 11-2 158 3

4. Ev. Bosse 8-0 140 4

5. Leo 10-0 132 2

6. S. Bend St. Joseph's 8-2 100 6

7. Mishawaka Marian 8-2 88 7

8. Greensburg 8-2 72 9

9. Danville 6-1 51 10

10. Sullivan 10-2 37 8

Others receiving votes: Peru 36. Guerin Catholic 13. Beech Grove 13. Connersville 8.

CLASS 2A

W-L Pts Prv

1. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (10) 11-1 200 1

2. Shenandoah 11-3 174 2

3. Linton-Stockton 13-2 147 3

4. S. Spencer 11-2 129 4

5. Blackford 7-2 117 5

6. Parke Heritage 12-2 88 7

7. Central Noble 13-1 86 8

8. Indianapolis Covenant Christian 10-1 100 25

9. Westview 8-3 48 6

10. R. Ripley 10-1 46 NR

Others receiving votes: Eastern Hancock 32.

Southwestern (Jefferson) 31. Madison-Grant 12. Northeastern 9. Andrean 6.

CLASS 1A

W-L Pts Prv

1. Barr-Reeve (9) 12-2 180 1

2. Loogootee 9-3 146 3

3. Kouts 11-2 142 4

4. Bloomfield 7-2 109 4

5. Doviess 10-2 109 3

6. Edinburgh 10-3 82 6

7. Tindley 7-4 75 79

8. Covington 5-3 67 7

9. Morristown 8-3 59 8

10. Indianapolis Lutheran 10-3 47 18

Others receiving votes: Jac-Cen-Del 34. Lafayette Catholic 18. Orleans 12.

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Purdue vs. Ohio St.

Maryland at Michigan

Penn St. at Illinois

Northwestern vs. Wisconsin, 9 p.m.

Minnesota at Nebraska, ppd.

Reitz vs. Evansville

TUESDAY'S GAMES

Rutgers at Penn St., 7 p.m.

Indiana at Iowa, 9 p.m.

HORIZON LEAGUE

Conference

All Games

W L Pct W